

REPORT

OF THE SELECTMEN OF THE

TOWN OF CROYDON,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1853.**DISBURSEMENTS.***Paid for the support of Schools:—*

District No. 1.	Paid Ephraim Nelson,	59 82
2.	Reuben Cooper,	137 58
3.	Moses Whipple,	96 42
4.	Moses Eastman,	29 33
5.	Edward H. Brown,	39 37
6.	Gilman Stockwell,	30 57
7.	Alfred Ward,	13 40
8.	Luke Paul,	7 78
9.	Francis Cutting,	16 66
10.	Elias Powers,	7 38
	S. B. Rowell,	1 60
		439 91

Paid, as follows:—

State Tax,	192 50
County Tax,	119 51
	312 01
Balance due last year's Selectmen,	27 96
Printing last year's Report,	9 54
	37 50
W. M. Ladd, support Teachers' Institute,	9 90
Wm. C. Allen, for enrolling and returning soldiers,	2 50
Nathan Hall, for enrolling and returning soldiers,	2 50
Daniel R. Hall, for 1 bu. flax seed,	2 17

John Cooper, for tuition of Wm. Barton,	20 00	
Ruel Durkee, for repairing town-house,	3 00	
Traveler, for damage received on mountain road,	10 00	
Ruel Durkee, for stationery and postage,	1 00	
		51 07
Town of New London, support of Lizzie Kempton,	60 00	
Ruel Durkee, for journey to Concord and 4 journeys to New London,	13 75	
M. W. Tappan, on action New London vs. Croydon,	3 00	
		76 75
Freeman Cutting, for boarding Hannah Chase in April last,	1 50	
Geo. W. Dunbar, for cloth and trimmings for pants for Harvey Elliot,	1 76	
David W. Fry, for boots for H. Elliot,	2 25	
Daniel and Obed Q. Elliot, on obligation to support Olive Elliot,	40 00	
Francis Cutting, for the support of P. Emerson and Joel Chase,	70 00	
Briant Brown, for the support of Lucia Freeman,	29 50	
Nathan Clark, jr. for the support of Nathan Clark and wife,	109 00	
Freeman Crosby, for the support of Ezra Coburn 15 weeks,	31 00	
Cyrus K. Fletcher, for the support of Ezra Coburn 17 weeks,	17 00	
Cyrus K. Fletcher, for wood for E. Coburn,	1 00	
Hiram C. Brown, for the support of Ezra Coburn up to March 8, 1853,	6 00	
		309 01
For support of Hannah Spiller and funeral charges,	53 95	
For support of Sally Mitchell,	25 35	
		79 30
Peter Barton, for support of David Fry and wife,	129 00	
Joseph Crooker, for support of Mrs. Bartlett,	60 00	
Libbeus Heath, for the support of Livera Chase and child,	55 00	
David Harding, for the support of Lydia Harding,	40 00	
Benj. Barton, support of Hannah Chase's boy,	38 50	
Ephraim Nelson, for the support of Sally Hardy,	70 00	
		392 50
Nathaniel W. Brown, for wood furnished Ezra Coburn, March, 1851,	2 00	
Ruel Durkee, for wood for E. Powers,	8 00	
" 2½ bu. corn, ½ bu. rye,	3 00	
" 23 lbs. pork,	2 88	

Ruel Durkee, 20 lbs. tallow,	2 00	
“ use and keeping cow,	16 00	
“ use of stove,	1 00	
“ 245 lbs. beef,	8 31	
		43 19
Ruel Durkee, for 3 bushels wheat for E. Powers,	3 25	
“ hauling manure and ploughing do.	2 50	
“ moving goods do.	1 00	
Hial Dow, house rent do.	11 00	
Ezra Kempton, house rent do.	2 25	
Timothy G. Powers, 2 bbls. flour do.	11 00	
William Allen, for use of land do.	7 00	
		38 00
D. D. Marsh, for visit and medicine for Livera Chase's child,	75	
D. D. Marsh, for medicine for Lucia Freeman,	25	
D. D. Marsh, for 5 visits and medicine for Hannah Chase's boy,	2 50	
		3 50
Williams Barton, for 25 visits and medicine for Mrs. Fry,	20 75	
Williams Barton, for 2 visits and medicine for David Fry,	1 66	
Williams Barton, for 8 visits and medicine for Ezekiel Powers' wife,	4 00	
Williams Barton, for medicine for E. Powers' wife,	20	
Williams Barton, for 5 visits and medicine for Ezekiel Powers,	2 50	
Williams Barton, for 2 visits and medicine for Lydia Harding,	1 00	
		30 11
Ira Bragg, for repairing bridges and plank,	75	
Alfred Cutting, for plank for bridges,	3 20	
Hiram C. Brown, do.	57	
Hiram Currier do.	7 11	
Martin C. Bartlette, do.	1 83	
William W. Hall, do.	1 00	
Ruel Durkee, 810 feet, do.	8 10	
George W. Barton, for repairing bridges,	5 50	
Nathaniel W. Brown, for repairing bridges,	5 62	
Luke Paul, for plank and timber for bridges,	4 04	
Abel Whipple, repairing bridges,	9 50	
Elijah Jacobs, for breaking road from E. Powers, jr. to Mountain Brook, in March, 1852,	2 50	
Gilman Stockwell, repairing and breaking out Mountain Road,	15 00	

Ebenezer Mitchell, for repairing bridge,	42	
		65 14
John Cooper, for tolling bell,	2 00	
Ebenezer Mitchell, for opening 2 graves,	2 25	
Hiram Kempton, " 1 "	1 00	
Ephraim Nelson, " 2 "	2 00	
Nathan Hall, for returning births and deaths,	60	
		7 85
John Cooper, for his services as Superintending School Committee,	14 00	
Nathan Hall, his services as Town Clerk,	10 50	
Timothy G. Powers, for his services as Collector,	15 00	
Ruel Durkee, for his services as Selectman,	25 00	
Dellavan D. Marsh, do.	25 00	
Hiram C. Brown, do.	10 00	
		99 50

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

1851. Orlando P. Metcalf, ...	1 60	
Aaron S. White, ...	2 46	
		4 06
Total amount paid out,		\$ 1989 40

The Selectmen have credited the Town, for the year ending March, 1853, as follows:—

By a list of taxes assessed in April last,	1605 39
By Literary Fund,	48 69
Interest received on School notes,	61 28
Received of Peter Barton, for the use of David Fry place,	15 00
Received of the County of Sullivan, for the support of Mrs. Hardy,	70 00
Received of the town of Bridgewater, for the support and funeral expenses for Hannah Spiller,	53 95
Received of the town of Andover, for the support of Sally Mitchell,	25 35
Total Receipts,	\$ 1879 66
Leaving a balance against the town,	109 74

Which is respectfully submitted, by

RUEL DURKEE,	} <i>Selectmen of Croydon.</i>
DELLAVAN D. MARSH,	
HIRAM C. BROWN,	

REPORT

OF THE SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The close of another civil year has rendered it the duty of your committee to present his annual Report. The system of Common Schools is a prominent feature of our free institutions. New England has the honor of having placed on her statute books the first enactment, providing for universal education by general taxation, to be found in the history of the world. In a political and moral point of view, the value of our free schools can hardly be overstated. From these "Colleges for the Million" issues the stream which permeates the community, and qualifies it for self-government. Popular education, or the education of the masses, underlies all that is valuable in our political fabric, and is a powerful auxiliary in the cause of Truth. An interest of so much importance should be guarded with the utmost vigilance; every patriot should watch over it; and every philanthropist and every christian should foster it.

Your schools the past year will compare favorably with those of former years; but they will never assume the commanding position which they are destined to occupy, until you take a deeper interest in the subject. When you cause your school-houses to become models of their kind; when you visit your schools frequently, and evince as much interest in their welfare, as you do in the management of your private affairs, then, and not till then, will common school education in this town be in a flourishing condition.

The following Table and Remarks exhibit the present standing of your schools:

No. of District.	Terms—1 indicating the summer, and 2 the winter term.	Names of Teachers.	Length of School, in weeks.	Number between the ages of 4 and 14 years, not attended school.	Average number that have attended school.	Whole number that have attended 2 weeks.	Number between 14 and 21 years, unable to read and write.	Wages of Teachers per month, exclusive of board.	Amount contributed to lengthen the School.
1	1	Miss Ann Moulton,	8	0	33	46		7 00	9 00
	2	Mr. Geo. B. Barton,	11 1-4	0	28			16 00	23 50
2	1	Miss Sarah Bragg,	10	0	60			12 00	
	2	Miss Augusta Cooper,	10	0	42	91	0	8 00	
	2	Dr. Williams Barton,	10	0	38			16 00	
3	1	Miss Harriet Humphrey,	10	2	36	52		6 00	
	2	Mr. Sherman Cooper,	12	0	43				
4	1	Miss Sarah J. Bartlett,	5 1-2	0	12			5 00	6 00
	2	Mr. Daniel Eastman,	8						15 00
5	2	Mrs. Asenath G. Hall,	10	0	13	15	0	8 00	
6	1	Miss Amanda M. Carroll,	9	0	13			5 00	10 00
	2	Miss Jane L. Weld,	8	0	10	15	0	6 00	9 00
	2	Miss Amanda M. Carroll,	4	0	12			6 67	5 00

REMARKS. In order to lay before you more fully the progress and present condition of your schools, it is necessary that each district in which schools have been taught, during the past year, be reported separately.

DISTRICT No. 1.

SUMMER TERM. This term commenced under favorable auspices. The services of an experienced teacher were secured, and a good degree of interest was manifested by parents and others, for the success of the school. But the sickness of Miss Moulton making a long vacation necessary near the close of the term, the school passed but an indifferent examination. It appeared that the pupils had not made that progress which was anticipated at the commencement of the term. The failure must be attributed in part to the neglect of the teacher to maintain an efficient system of discipline.

WINTER TERM. The noise and confusion which reigned triumphant during a recent term of this school, are well known and are a subject of regret to every friend of education. When Mr. Barton took charge of the school, the first object which imperiously demanded his attention, was, to bring order out of the chaotic elements by which he was surrounded. That he succeeded in his undertaking, could be seen by the most superficial observer. In point of order and decorum this school is now second to none in the town; and, as a consequence, it has made rapid progress.

DISTRICT No. 2.

SUMMER TERM. This was a model school. The quiet, unassuming manners, the pleasing address, the decision of character, literary attainments, and the tact for imparting knowledge, possessed by Miss Bragg, qualify her in an eminent degree for a successful teacher. During the past autumn Miss Bragg also taught a *select private* school in this district. Length, 8 weeks, average number of pupils, 30; expense, \$35.

WINTER TERM—Primary Department. This term was conducted with more than ordinary success. The order was very good, and the progress made, very commendable. Vocal music was made one of the daily exercises.

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT. This department has for years enjoyed advantages over every other school in town. Composed of selected scholars, and enjoying the instructions of experienced and competent teachers, it is but reasonable to suppose that in this school can be found some of our most forward scholars. And it is so. In the departments of reading and mathematics, this school is unsurpassed by any in town; while its proficiency in other branches is more than respectable. The progress made was very good. In addition to the studies named in the Revised Statutes, Physiology, Algebra, and History were taught.

DISTRICT No. 3.

SUMMER TERM. During the examinations which took place at the commencement and close of the term, the pupils manifested a degree of order, attention and decorum, highly creditable both to themselves and their teacher. A good degree of progress was made, especially in those elementary branches which are legally required to be taught in a summer school.

WINTER TERM. This was a useful term. The order was good, and the progress made, very rapid. In teaching the different branches analytically, the teacher particularly excelled. Here was found the first class in English Grammar. For a number of years the progress of this school has been onward and upward; so that at the present day it may be ranked in the first class of our schools. Last autumn Mrs. Asenath G. Hall taught a *private* school in this district. Length, 8 weeks; expense, \$18.00.

DISTRICT No. 4.

SUMMER TERM. This was a well managed and well disposed school. The progress made during the brief term, was very good. The method of instruction pursued by Miss Bartlett, was well adapted to interest her pupils.

WINTER TERM. The school being in session at the time of writing, a full report of its success cannot be given. Mr. Eastman, being an experienced and successful teacher, will doubtless be able to render a good account of his labors. In this district a private school was taught last autumn. Of the particulars respecting it, your committee is not informed.

DISTRICT No. 5.

No Summer Term.

WINTER TERM. This was an excellent school. The discipline was strict, the management judicious, and the progress made very commendable. In every point of view the previous character of the school has been fully sustained.

DISTRICT No. 6.

SUMMER TERM. This was a very interesting and useful term. On the day of the last examination the pupils behaved with decorum, and evinced by their correct and ready answers, that they had made rapid advancement.

WINTER SCHOOL—First Term. This was also a well conducted session. The pupils in this district are noted for their correct deportment while in the school room.

SECOND TERM. This school would not suffer by comparison with either of the preceding. The Misses Carroll and Weld deserve the thanks of every parent in the district, for their unexceptionable deportment when in the company of their pupils.

From the foregoing remarks it will be seen that our Prudential Committees have been peculiarly happy in the selection of teachers. Those that have had the charge of your schools the past year, have possessed an amount of learning, and talent, and energy, and devotion to their appropriate work, unsurpassed by any corps of teachers employed in town since your committee has taken any part in the supervision of your schools. One consequence of this has been the establishment of an efficient system of order. To attain an object so desirable, a few instances of undue severity, on the part of the teacher, may have occurred. It is a matter of regret that complaints of this nature should have any foundation in truth. But after making all proper allowance for such instances of overacting, in the opinion of your committee, the stringent rules of discipline carried out in some of your schools, have had a decidedly beneficial effect.

JOHN COOPER.



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LOWELL'S OFFICE